UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE
44th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 27 November 1991
at 10 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

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- Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on international security agenda items

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.1/46/PV.44
20 December 1991

ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 12.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 67 AND 68 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: Yesterday I informed members that the Committee would proceed this morning to take action on draft resolutions A/C.1/46/L.52 and A/C.1/46/L.53. Owing to the fact that consultations are continuing, I have decided to postpone until this afternoon action on draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.53. However, we shall proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52.

I shall first call on delegations wishing to make a statement other than a statement in explanation of vote or position.

I call on the representative of Malta to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52.

Mr. GRIMA (Malta): On behalf of the sponsors - Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Tunisia, Yugoslavia and Malta - I am pleased to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

(Mr. Grima, Malta)

In introducing the draft resolution, I should also like, on behalf of the sponsors, to propose a slight revision in operative paragraph 2. The word "of" in the phrase "efforts of the Mediterranean States" should be replaced with the word "by".

The main purpose of the draft resolution is to underline the need for cooperation in the Mediterranean for regional peace and security, and in this context the draft highlights a number of initiatives that are being undertaken by States of the region. There are nine preambular paragraphs. After recalling last year's resolution on the subject and reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in their region, the Assembly would, in the third preambular paragraph of the draft, recognize the efforts realized so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify their dialogue. In the fourth preambular paragraph there is an expression of concern at the persistent tension in the region, and in the following preambular paragraph recognition of the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and of the fact that cooperation to promote economic and social development in the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security.

In the sixth preambular paragraph The Assembly would recognize that the positive developments taking place worldwide would enhance prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, and in the seventh preambular paragraph it would express satisfaction at the growing awareness of the need for joint efforts by all Mediterranean countries so as to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation.

After taking note of the report of the Secretary-General in document A/46/523 and Corr.1, the Assembly would, in operative paragraph 1, reaffirm

(Mr. Grima, Malta)

that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security.

In operative paragraphs 2 and 3 it would express satisfaction at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean States to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and emphasize the need for a just and peaceful settlement of persistent problems in accordance with the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

In operative paragraph 4 the Assembly would welcome the decision by the United States of America and the Soviet Union no longer to deploy tactical nuclear weapons on naval vessels and the positive effect this would have on confidence- and security-building in the Mediterranean.

In the next two operative paragraphs, the Assembly would take note, respectively, of the adoption of the Charter of Paris in December 1990 and of the conclusions of the Tenth Ministerial Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in September 1991.

In operative paragraph 7 it would welcome the decisions taken by the Western Mediterranean countries at their second meeting, held at Algiers in October 1991, and their decision to hold a summit at Tunis early in 1992.

In operative paragraph 8 it would note the widespread support among Mediterranean countries and the ongoing consultations to create the appropriate conditions for the convening of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean.

In operative paragraph 9 Mediterranean countries are encouraged to redouble their efforts to promote confidence- and security-building measures and to eliminate economic and social disparities in the region; and in operative paragraph 10 all States are urged to cooperate with the Mediterranean States in the intensification of existing forms of cooperation.

(Mr. Grima, Malta)

In operative paragraph 11 Member States and relevant organizations are invited to communicate to the Secretary-General ideas and suggestions for his report on the issue to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session; and in operative paragraph 12 there is a decision to include this item in the provisional agenda of the next session.

It is the hope of the sponsors that draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52, as orally revised on behalf of the sponsors, on the item "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region" will this year, as in previous years, be adopted by consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52, submitted under agenda item 67, "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

I call upon the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52 has nine sponsors and was introduced by the representative of Malta at the Committee's 44th meeting on 27 November 1991. It was orally revised at this morning's meeting by the representative of Malta.

The sponsors of the draft resolution are: Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia and Yugoslavia.

The CHAIRMAN: The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52 have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly?

Draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52, as orally revised, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call upon representatives who wish to explain their position. May I remind them that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations are limited to 10 minutes.

Mr. KLUBA (United States of America): The United States is pleased to join in the consensus on the draft resolution concerning the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. However, my Government wishes to note that United States support for this draft resolution does not necessarily constitute support for the proposal to establish a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean.

Mr. COTTAFAVI (Italy): The delegations of France, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Italy, on whose behalf I have the honour to speak, participated in the adoption, without a vote, of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52 on strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region although they would have preferred to support a more thoroughly revised draft freed from all unbalanced and divisive language.

The Mediterranean countries of the European Community would have liked to build, with the other Mediterranean partners, a solid common base from which to address jointly concerns related to security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. Enhanced regional cooperation is, in our view, the right aim of the draft resolution, and its achievement is the precondition for its further development. We regret, therefore, that negotiations with the original sponsors did not result in a draft we could fully support and co-sponsor. Some paragraphs of an unbalanced and divisive nature were specifically addressed in the negotiations.

Nevertheless, the delegations on whose behalf I have the honour to speak hope that a more forthcoming and updated approach will next year allow the Mediterranean countries fully to support and sponsor the draft resolution that will address security and cooperation in our region.

Ms. MASON (Canada): Canada too would like to express its support for the important principle underlined by my colleague from Italy in his statement, that is, the principle that regional initiatives, to be successful, must enjoy broad support among the parties in the region.

Secondly, we would draw specific attention to the oral amendment to operative paragraph 2, which makes clearer the selective nature of the efforts about which satisfaction is being expressed in that paragraph.

Mr. SERKSNYS (Lithuania): Lithuania supports all resolutions and efforts for the strengthening of peace in the world. Taking into account the continuing war in Croatia, we could not formally accept operative paragraph 2. Now, after the change in operative paragraph 2, if there were a vote, we would abstain.

Mr. AINSO (Estonia): Estonia participated in the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52; however, we should like to express our position regarding operative paragraph 2. We are greatly disturbed by the language in that paragraph since we cannot derive any satisfaction from the carnage, death and destruction that is presently taking place in the Mediterranean region; nor do we perceive any attempts to withdraw the occupation forces. Rather, we see an increase in attempts to occupy certain areas.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): I should like to explain, briefly, my delegation's position on draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.52, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", which the First Committee has just adopted.

As in the case of similar draft resolutions in previous years, my delegation joined in the consensus in favour of this year's draft resolution. This is an expression of our keen interest in maintaining and strengthening peace and security in the Mediterranean region as a whole.

(Mr. Alpman, Turkey)

I should note, however, that the draft resolution refers to documents adopted at certain meetings in which Turkey did not participate. I should like to put on record the fact that our participation in the adoption of the draft resolution should not be construed as Turkey's agreement with every element contained in the conclusions of those meetings.

The CHAIRMAN: I have been informed, during the discussion which has just taken place, that we may now be able to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.53 also.

Mr. KOTEVSKI (Yugoslavia): The draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/46/L.53 is an attempt by its sponsors to adopt an approach which would be more in conformity with the new trends in international relations. However, I should like to inform the Committee that, for lack of time, the sponsors were not able to complete consultations with all the interested members of the Committee.

Therefore, after today's consultations, the sponsors have decided not to press for action on draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.53. Instead, they have decided to propose a procedural draft decision. I should like, therefore, on behalf of Algeria, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Pakistan, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe, to introduce the following draft decision:

...

"... Reaffirms the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security;

"Recalls its previous resolutions under this item, the latest of which is resolution 45/80 of 12 December 1990;

"Invites Member States to provide their views on the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security;

(Mr. Kotevski, Yugoslavia)

"Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

"Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled 'Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security'."

We feel obliged to say that we should, of course, have preferred to have had a draft resolution at this session too, but, unfortunately, owing to the lack of time, the consultations could not be completed. Therefore, I propose to the Committee, on behalf of the sponsors, that this draft decision should be adopted without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has heard the statement by the representative of Yugoslavia, who announced that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.53 are not now pressing for action on it.

The representative of Yugoslavia also introduced a draft decision for consideration by the Committee. It is my understanding that, if the Committee wishes to act accordingly, then the procedure should be as follows: the draft decision will receive a new symbol, namely, A/C.1/46/L.54, and the Committee will proceed to take action on it.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to adopt draft decision A/C.1/46/L.54.

Draft decision A/C.1/46/L.54 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Hungary.

Mr. GAJDA (Hungary): I had no wish to prevent the Committee from taking the decision it has just taken; I wish merely to submit a proposal to the sponsors of draft decision A/C.1/46/L.54.

As my delegation was not involved in the consultations on that text, I am left with the possibility of making only one proposal from the floor. That proposal is connected with the text as read out by the representative of Yugoslavia.

In following the text carefully, I noticed in the second paragraph a reference to previous resolutions, including the most recent one. The first preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.53 merely recalls General Assembly resolution 45/80 of last year. I submit that reference to that one resolution, as in draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.53, would suffice in draft decision A/C.1/46/L.54 as well.

I would suggest that when the text is reproduced and put to the vote in the General Assembly its second paragraph should recall only General Assembly resolution 45/80 of 12 December 1990. I hope the sponsors of draft decision A/C.1/46/L.54 are agreeable to that proposal.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall call now on representatives wishing to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): In the statement he made yesterday, the Greek Cypriot representative referred to the "continuing illegal occupation of part of the territory" -

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Cyprus on a point of order.

Mr. KAKOURIS (Cyprus): There are two points of order I wish to raise.

First - and perhaps you can clarify this, Mr. Chairman - it is my understanding that the right of reply can be exercised at any time before action has been taken on draft resolutions under the items in question. We have just taken action on two texts: that relating to the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region and draft decision A/C.1/46/L.54. In my view, the situation is this: in keeping with rule 128 of the rules of procedure,

> "After the Chairman has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. ..."

The CHAIRMAN: My understanding of the rules of procedure is that the right of reply can be exercised until consideration of the agenda items in question has been completed. We are still considering agenda items 67 and 68.

Mr. KAKOURIS (Cyprus): Rule 115 says that

> "During the course of a debate, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Committee, declare the list closed. He may, however, accord the right of reply to any member if a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable."

The debate on the items concluded; we entered the voting procedure on those items; and we have just concluded that procedure, except for explanations of vote after the voting.

The CHAIRMAN: I have consulted the representative of Cyprus, and I now again call upon the representative of Turkey.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): In the statement that he made yesterday, the representative of the Greek Cypriots referred to the continuing illegal occupation of part of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish forces. In exercise of my delegation's right of reply, I would first point out that the Turkish forces to which he referred are not "in the territory of the Republic of Cyprus" but in the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Furthermore, those forces are not occupying these lands. On the contrary, they are seen by the Turkish Cypriots as their liberators and the guarantors of their very existence. The international community is well aware of the unspeakable events of the period between 1963 and 1974, in which thousands of Turkish Cypriots were massacred by the Greek Cypriots attempting to unite the island with Greece. Those who are not familiar with these tragic events should refer to the 1964 Security Council resolution establishing the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

I should like to emphasize further that the presence of Turkish forces in the island is not the cause but the outcome of the Cyprus problem. This problem is an intercommunal question. Its settlement has to be negotiated between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot communities. The settlement is seen by the Security Council, as described in resolutions 649 (1990) and 716 (1991), as the establishment of a new and lawful State on the island, which will be a bizonal and bicommunal federation based on the political equality of the two communities.

Instead of distorting the nature of the Cyprus issue and misrepresenting the facts in order to use the First Committee for his community's political

(Mr. Alpman, Turkey)

propaganda, the representative of the Greek Cypriots would do better to display the good intentions that he attributed to his Government -

The CHAIRMAN: I call upon the representative of Cyprus on a point of order.

Mr. KAKOURIS (Cyprus): When the representative of Turkey referred to me in his initial remarks as the Greek Cypriot representative, I refrained from any comment, but he has now referred to me again as the Greek Cypriot representative. It is regrettable that the representative of Turkey has again this year shown total disregard and disrespect not only for my own delegation but for the Committee and the United Nations in general.

The country that I represent, a sovereign country and a Member of the United Nations, is Cyprus. The representative of Turkey should at the very least not show total contempt for the Organization by referring to me as anything else than the representative of Cyprus.

What is particularly, and more, disturbing in terms of the Committee is that the representative of Turkey is also our Vice-Chairman. In my humble opinion, his behaviour and his manner of addressing me is not in line with the position and responsibilities that we have afforded him. In any case, Mr. Chairman, your calling upon me as the representative of Cyprus is a sufficient rebuke to the representative of Turkey.

The CHAIRMAN: I would ask representatives to refer to countries by their proper name.

I now call upon the representative of Turkey.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): I shall continue. The representative would do better to display the good intentions he attributed to his Government with

(Mr. Alpman, Turkey)

respect to the peaceful settlement of this 28-year-old dispute by placing the issue in its true framework.

The CHAIRMAN: I call upon the representative of Cyprus.

Mr. KAKOURIS (Cyprus): My delegation has just heard the comments of the representative of Turkey and regrets that he continues in his attempt to hoodwink the international community by camouflaging the internationally condemned illegal acts conducted by his country, Turkey, against my country, Cyprus, through its invasion and continued occupation of part of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

I do not wish to enter into a dialogue with the representative of Turkey, because the Organization knows the Cyprus problem only too well. Facts are facts. An invasion did occur, and an occupation remains in place. My Government has repeatedly stated that it is committed to a just and viable solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

The question that really needs to be asked here of the representative of Turkey is: Is Turkey also willing to implement the various relevant resolutions of the United Nations, especially those of the Security Council, which, if I may be allowed to remind the representative of Turkey, are of a binding nature? The Government of the Republic of Cyprus has stated on numerous occasions its support for the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, including the most recent one, Security Council resolution 716 (1991), which reaffirms all previous resolutions. We support it in its entirety, and we regard it as most constructive.

As regards the illegal entity existing in the occupied area, which the representative of Turkey attempts to give legitimacy, let me refer him and the

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Committee to Security Council resolution 541 (1983), which calls upon all States not to recognize this illegal entity in the occupied part of Cyprus. It is interesting to note that the only country that has disregarded that resolution is in fact Turkey. Furthermore, Security Council resolution 550 (1984) specifically condemned Turkey for exchanging ambassadors with the illegal entity in the occupied area.

The United Nations is not a marketplace where you pick and choose that which you like and throw away that which you do not. We saw Turkey's quickness in misrepresenting and misinterpreting resolution 649 (1990). Similarly, it has attempted to misrepresent and misinterpret resolution 716 (1991). It is high time that this hypocrisy ended. If Turkey is at last willing to show respect for the United Nations and its Charter, then let it start by stating in this Committee its unequivocal support for all United Nations resolutions on Cyprus and their implementation. Until it does so, Turkey will remain isolated on the international stage as one who continues to advocate that might is right, over the Charter and the United Nations and over the primacy of the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): In the exercise of my delegations's right of reply at the Third Committee on 12 November, the Turkish representative pointed out that it appeared impossible to hear conciliatory views from the Greek Cypriots with regard to Cyprus.

This observation has once again been confirmed today. In the face of the statement of the representative of the Greek Cypriots, I think it would be appropriate to quote what was said by the Turkish delegation at the Third Committee on that occasion:

(spoke in French)

"It would certainly be impossible to hear such conciliatory and encouraging things said here in this forum on the subject of Cyprus. We have once again heard allegations made in an aggressive manner, and counter to the truth. This relapse, which runs counter to Security Council resolutions 649 (1990) and 716 (1991), certainly does not serve the objective of the Secretary-General's mission of good offices.

"It is not my intention to dwell on the details, and I shall limit myself to making a few comments of a general nature by referring to the report of the Secretary-General of 8 March 1990 (S/21183), as well as to the aforementioned Security Council resolutions 649 (1990) and 716 (1991), which are dated, respectively, 12 March 1990 and 11 October 1991.

In paragraph 5 of his report of 8 March 1990 (S/21183), the Secretary-General declares the following:

"'Cyprus is the common home of the Greek Cypriot and of the Turkish Cypriot community. Their relationship is not one of majority and minority, but one of two communities in the State of Cyprus. The mandate given to me by the Security Council makes it clear that my mission of

(Mr. Alpman, Turkey)

good offices is with the two communities. My mandate is also explicit that the participation of the two communities in this process is on an equal footing. The solution that is being sought is thus one that must be decided upon by, and must be acceptable to, both communities. It must also respect the cultural, religious, social and linguistic identity of each community'.

"Security Council resolution 649 (1990) reaffirms, in its operative paragraph 1, that the leaders of the two communities pledged to establish a bi-communal Federal Republic of Cyprus; while in operative paragraph 3, the leaders of the two communities are called upon to pursue their efforts to reach freely a mutually acceptable solution providing for the establishment of a federation that will be bi-communal as regards the constitutional aspects and bi-zonal as regards the territorial aspects.

"Security Council resolution 716 (1991) reaffirms, in its operative paragraph 3, that the establishment of a new constitutional arrangement for Cyprus that would ensure the well-being and security of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in a bi-communal federation is one of the fundamental principles of a Cyprus settlement. In its operative paragraph 4, resolution 716 (1991) reaffirms that the solution to the Cyprus problem is based on one State of Cyprus comprising two politically equal communities. In its operative paragraph 6, the resolution reaffirms that the Secretary-General's mission of good offices is with the two communities, whose participation in the process is on an equal footing.

"As these references clearly indicate, the fundamental elements for a solution are, first of all, the political equality of the two Cypriot communities, the Turkish and the Greek; and, secondly, the establishment

(Mr. Alpman, Turkey)

of a new, federal, bi-zonal, bi-communal Cypriot State, in which the two communities will enjoy equality as well as identical powers and attributions."

(spoke in English)

This is the true framework of the Cyprus issue that I referred to at the end of my first statement today.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Cyprus, who wishes to speak in exercise of his right of reply for the second time.

Mr. KAKOURIS (Cyprus): It was of course regrettable, Mr. Chairman, that during the course of the statement by the representative of Turkey he did not heed your ruling on referring to my country by its proper name; but that is only an extension of total disregard for United Nations resolutions.

All I have to say is that which I said in my first statement, that is, that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus supports the efforts of the Secretary-General, and all United Nations resolutions.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE
45th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 27 November 1991
at 3 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

CONTENTS

- Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on international security agenda items

- Conclusion of the Committee's work

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A/C.1/46/PV.45
20 December 1991

ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 67 AND 68 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those delegations wishing to explain their position after the decision.

Ms. MASON (Canada): With respect to draft decision A/C.1/46/L.54, adopted this morning without a vote, it is Canada's hope that our action will provide renewed impetus to our collective efforts in the First Committee to find an agreed way to reflect in resolution form the tremendous changes that have taken place in the world, and, more important, how these changes might impact on approaches to strengthening international security since the adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security in 1970.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has now completed its consideration of agenda items 67 and 68.

CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has concluded its consideration of all agenda items allocated to the First Committee.

I now call on the Secretary of the Committee, who has a statement to make.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform delegations that, with a view to facilitating the work at this stage of preparation for the forthcoming vote by the General Assembly on disarmament matters and the other items that were before the Committee - that is, Antarctica and international security - the secretariat of the First Committee is in the process of preparing an informal tabulation paper entitled "Reports of the First Committee", which will be distributed in a few days. I should emphasize that this is only an informal paper. It will set out in tabulation

(Mr. Kheradi)

form the corresponding numbers of the "L" documents adopted in the Committee with the corresponding numbers in the Committee's reports which will be before the General Assembly when the voting takes place there. It is our sincere hope that this will facilitate and expedite the work of the members of the First Committee in the plenary meeting at that stage. I should add that this is an innovation we introduced last year. It was well received by delegations, and we intend to continue that precedent.

In addition, I should like to put on record the fact that, as necessary, a conference room paper will also be issued subsequently, setting out a consolidated statement of financial implications of the draft resolutions or decisions adopted by the First Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Jordan, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. JOMA (Jordan): On behalf of the Chairman of the Group of Asian States, I have the honour and pleasure of congratulating you, Sir, on the able, relaxed and expeditious manner in which you have conducted the deliberations of the First Committee. I should also like to extend our appreciation to the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Sedfrey Ordonez of the Philippines, Mr. Ahmet Alpman of Turkey and our Rapporteur, Mr. Pablo Emilio Sader of Uruguay. They all contributed to the efficient and productive manner in which the Committee's debates were conducted.

The acknowledgement of the Group also goes to Mr. Vasiliy Safronchuk, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, and to Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs.

(Mr. Joma, Jordan)

The First Committee's work in this session has been carried out in a businesslike atmosphere and in a spirit of dialogue and understanding, which was reflected in the large number of resolutions adopted by consensus.

Last, but not least, we also wish warmly to thank the Committee's secretariat and other officers associated with it, including the interpreters and technical staff, who, by their efficiency and cooperation, have enabled the Committee to accomplish its work in a diligent and highly professional manner.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Yugoslavia, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. ZUGIC (Yugoslavia): In its capacity as Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, the delegation of Yugoslavia is pleased to express to you, Sir, on behalf of the Group and on its own behalf, sincere congratulations on the efficient and productive manner in which you have guided our deliberations in this important Committee.

Allow me, Sir, to express our appreciation also to the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee and to our Rapporteur. I should also like to thank the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, and his capable staff, without whose collaboration our work would not be possible.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Jamaica, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Miss THOMAS (Jamaica): As we come to the end of this year's session of the First Committee, I wish, on behalf of the member States of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, to thank you, Sir, sincerely for the efficient manner in which you have guided the Committee's work. I also wish to express to the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur our appreciation of their valuable contribution to our work, and to express our thanks to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, and to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, and his staff, whose expertise has contributed to the Committee's efficient functioning.

May I take this opportunity also to thank the conference officers and interpreters, without whom our work would have been severely handicapped.

This year we have been able to work in a greater spirit of cooperation and compromise, which has contributed to the successful conclusion of our deliberations.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of New Zealand, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. ADANK (New Zealand): On behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, I am pleased to take this opportunity to join other Groups in expressing our appreciation of the thorough and skilful way in which you, Sir, and the other officers of the Committee have overseen the Committee's work at this session. We are grateful, too, for the important contributions made to our deliberations by Under-Secretary-General Akashi and Under-Secretary-General Safronchuk and by the Committee's Secretary, Mr. Kheradi, and other members of the Secretariat. Our thanks are also due to the interpreters and technical staff, whose efficient services have made our meetings possible.

The work of the First Committee during the current session has been marked by a considerable degree of cooperation and greater mutual understanding between delegations. That the Committee has worked productively through its heavy agenda in such a timely fashion is a tribute, Sir, to the quality of your chairmanship.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Gabon, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. MBA ALLO (Gabon) (interpretation from French): On behalf of the Group of African States and on behalf of my own delegation, I have the honour and privilege to express to you, Sir, our great appreciation of the outstanding way in which you have guided the work of this important Committee during the current session of the General Assembly. The spirit of moderation and compromise which dominated the work at this session was of fundamental importance in achieving solutions to the various complex and sensitive issues which were submitted for our consideration. We are proud that under your wise

(Mr. Mba Allo, Gabon)

guidance the First Committee was able to carry out such fruitful work, and on behalf of the Group of African States, I wish to congratulate you. In addition to that well-deserved tribute, we should like to extend our thanks to the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur. We are also grateful to all the Secretariat personnel, from whose dedication and cooperation we have benefited.

We also most particularly thank all the interpreters, who devoted themselves to their work, without which it might have been impossible for a group in which members speak different languages to work properly.

Since 1991 is drawing to a close, I should also like to take this opportunity to express to you, Mr. Chairman, as well as to all delegations, the best wishes of the African Group for Christmas and the New Year.

In conclusion, I should like in particular to thank the Chair for the special attention which it has kindly given our Group.

The CHAIRMAN: Now the time has come for my concluding statement.

We have completed the work programme of the forty-sixth session of the First Committee, and with the Committee's indulgence I should like to share some personal reflections on our endeavours and accomplishments.

The deliberations of the First Committee during the current session have underscored the growing realization that the United Nations is well placed to take a leading role in highlighting cooperative measures on a number of long-standing issues in the field of disarmament and international peace and security. On the basis of the work accomplished here during the current session, it appears that the Committee has also positioned itself in the forefront of efforts aimed at breaking new ground in areas such as international arms transfers and transparency. Indeed, the greater measure of

(The Chairman)

agreement witnessed in the Committee during the current session underlines the growing importance of this body. By acknowledging the shifting realities of the 1990s, the Committee has thus unequivocally opted for reconciliation, compromise and concerted action.

On the whole, one can say that the disarmament agenda this year has been eventful and satisfying. The constructive approach taken by delegations demonstrates the desire not to detract the focus of attention from vital problems of disarmament by interjecting new non-pragmatic issues. This also indicates that Member States have started to concentrate on issues which are amenable to multilateral consideration and which seem to have practical solutions in the foreseeable future, thus separating them from issues not susceptible to immediate resolution.

(The Chairman)

In my view, at this session the First Committee has not merely reacted reflexively to the rapid changes in the field of disarmament during the recent past, but has seized on what many have called a critical opportunity in the post-cold-war period to map out the disarmament agenda for the future. In doing so, the Committee appears to be widening its scope from the traditional nuclear issues towards matters such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, conventional armaments and regional disarmament.

During the forty-sixth session this new movement could be perceived in the language of a number of the draft resolutions submitted by delegations. In a draft decision, for example, the Committee recognized the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by recommending the formation of a preparatory committee in 1993 for the 1995 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. In the draft resolution on biological weapons the Committee stressed the importance inter alia of the establishment of a group of ad hoc governmental experts at the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the biological-weapons Convention to identify and examine potential verification measures for the Convention. In the draft resolution on chemical weapons the Committee urged the Conference on Disarmament to resolve outstanding issues so as to achieve final agreement on the chemical-weapons convention during the 1992 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

Differences in the Committee could still be witnessed on several of the traditional nuclear issues, such as the question of a comprehensive nuclear-test ban, but even here sponsors of the draft resolution were able to agree on and submit a single unified text for the first time, following intensive consultations.

(The Chairman)

The dramatic events in the Middle East and elsewhere also underlined the threat posed by the conventional arms build-up and uncontrolled international transfers of conventional weapons. Developed and developing countries alike, for example, participated in the drafting of a draft resolution in which, inter alia, the Secretary-General was requested to establish and maintain at United Nations Headquarters a universal and non-discriminatory register of conventional arms. This draft resolution in my view marks a watershed, as it signals a genuine commitment by Member States from every part of the globe to direct serious attention to the threat posed by conventional arms build-ups.

The readiness to get rid of old clichés and to embark on the path of exploring new avenues in disarmament was evident in the case of almost all issues considered by the Committee. Owing to subtle but significant moves by Member States, we have witnessed a change in their disarmament philosphies and the voting patterns, as well as a greater willingness to accept a wider divergence of viewpoints without holding on to positions in the context of political polarization.

Once again nuclear issues were dominant at this session, with roughly one third of all the draft resolutions adopted dealing with nuclear armaments. Nevertheless, the redistribution of emphasis under this broad rubric is also clearly visible. Increasingly, attention was devoted to such specific areas as non-proliferation and actual reductions of nuclear weapons, the latter deserving particular mention in the light of recent unilateral initiatives of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which were welcomed by the international community.

Many delegations spoke of the urgent need to turn the attention of the international community to problems of conventional weapons, arms transfers in

(The Chairman)

general and transparency in particular; the positive effects of confidence-building measures were increasingly recognized; the debate on the relationship between disarmament and development moved beyond a theoretical framework to broader practical areas of conversion and reduction of military expenditures for the purpose of peaceful development. The positive attitude towards the earliest possible conclusion of the treaty banning chemical weapons is particularly noteworthy. It was the feeling in this Committee that, in the light of recent positive developments, conditions may now be propitious for the completion of the convention in the near future. Significant progress was also registered with regard to the strengthening of the biological-weapons Convention at the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

In the deliberations on the question of Antarctica, delegations widely welcomed the increasing mutual understanding and support which are emerging for the maintenance of Antarctica as a peaceful natural reserve. Moreover, it was broadly underscored that there is a need to ensure the protection and conservation of Antarctica's environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems for the benefit of all mankind. Despite these favourable developments, positions of various States or groups of States remained at odds on some aspects of this question. This is reflected in the fact that consensus on this item was elusive in the Committee's deliberations. It is evident, however, that the signing of the Madrid Protocol last October represented a major step forward that reflects the narrowing of traditional differences on the question of Antarctica.

In the field of international security a number of Member States underlined the need to define a new system of security in the post-cold-war period and, in particular, the role which the United Nations could play in

(The Chairman)

such a regime. As was rightly pointed out, the First Committee retains its particular responsibility concerning the issues of disarmament and international security as the relevant forum of the General Assembly. The fact that a wider concept of security encompasses several important components, which in their own right are being considered by other organs of the United Nations, should in no way diminish this responsibility. At this session we have made a step in the right direction, by approaching security with a new vision, and the First Committee offers the appropriate place and opportunity for Member States to develop their views and comments on major aspects of international peace and security.

I should also like to take this opportunity to note that the Committee has once again given the Department for Disarmament Affairs a number of significant tasks and responsibilities, which reflects the continued confidence of Member States in the Department and the Secretariat.

(The Chairman)

At this stage, let me make a few remarks with respect to the question of further rationalization of the work of the First Committee. As representatives are aware, this particular matter was not addressed at this session within any formal framework. However, the prevailing atmosphere and the newly emerging international order were in themselves conducive to the crystallizing of a de facto rationalization of our work and proceedings. This is evident in the outcome of our work. As I had occasion to point out earlier, three years ago in the First Committee 74 draft resolutions were submitted by Member States; two years ago, 64 were submitted; and last year a total of 54 draft resolutions and decisions were submitted. During the current session a total of 48 draft resolutions and decisions were submitted. Of this figure, 2 draft resolutions and 1 draft decision were not pressed to a vote and 26 were adopted by the Committee without a vote, a figure which represents almost 58 per cent of the total number of draft resolutions adopted.

Interesting and pertinent suggestions have been submitted as to the procedure to be followed for the consideration of disarmament and security issues, with a view to rationalizing the Committee's work in a manner that reflects the intertwining relations between two broad areas of our agenda. In this context, I am particularly mindful of the statements made recently by the representatives of Canada and New Zealand. On the basis of the suggestions made, I intend to undertake appropriate consultations, both here and in Geneva, with delegations and groups of delegations on issues related to the further rationalization of the Committee's work. In this process I shall count on the cooperation of the Secretary of the First Committee, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, whose experience over the years in these matters will be of great assistance to both me and the Committee as a whole.

(The Chairman)

I cannot conclude my work as Chairman at this session without a clear and sincere expression of thanks to those individuals who have worked closely with me over the past few months. First, I wish to express my gratitude to delegations for their cooperation and support. It has been my privilege to serve with my fellow officers of the Committee, the two Vice-Chairmen, Ambassador Ordonez of the Philippines and Mr. Alpman of Turkey, as well as the Committee's Rapporteur, Mr. Sader of Uruguay.

I should also like to extend my gratitude to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Vasiliy Safronchuk, for their support and guidance.

I believe that all members of the Committee will join me in paying a tribute to the Committee's Secretary, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, whose advice has contributed to the smooth manner in which the Committee has completed its programme of work during the forty-sixth session. I want him to know how deeply grateful I and the Committee are to him. I also greatly appreciate the contribution made by his colleagues - in particular, the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Sattar, Mr. Ion, Mr. Lin , Mr. Ishiguri, Mr. Alasaniya, Ms. Patil, Mr. Biggs, Ms. Brosnakova and Mrs. Amaritnant , for their commendable service.

I should like to express my appreciation to the conference officers, the interpreters - I thank them very much - the verbatim reporters, the press officers and all the others who have enabled the Committee to function effectively and efficiently.

(The Chairman)

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are approaching, so let me also wish everyone present all the best and happiness.

It is my strong feeling that the First Committee has achieved something quite important. Once again, let me thank you all for your cooperation and work. I feel privileged that I have had the opportunity to chair this Committee.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.